


Fall 2016

Panther Press, Fall 2016

University of Northern Iowa. Department of Military Science.

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PANTHER PRESS

PANTHER BATTALION • FALL 2016



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Hall of Fame Induction

As part of the Panther Battalion's 30 year anniversary and UNI Homecoming, UNI ROTC will induct two esteemed alumni into the newly minted UNI ROTC Hall of Fame Saturday, October 1st, 9:30am in the West Gym. The first two inductees are Colonel Patrick W. Williams (Class of 1986) and Mr. John Gallagher (Class of 1983). Colonel Williams and Mr. Gallagher were also the first two UNI ROTC Alumni inducted into the U.S. Army Cadet Command ROTC Hall of Fame at Fort Knox, Kentucky this past summer as part of Cadet Command's 100th anniversary celebration.

The Panther Battalion Hall of Fame induction is part of a series of events with UNI's Homecoming week. All ROTC Alumni, friends of the ROTC program, and Cadets are welcome to attend the ROTC open house Friday, September 30th from 1-3pm in the West Gym. In conjunction with the Hall of Fame induction on October 1st at 9:30am, the Panther Battalion will host a breakfast for all program alumni and ROTC tailgate immediately following the UNI Homecoming Parade. Attire for all events is casual Panther Pride, details for all events and discounted football tickets can be found here: unialum.org/events/rotc-alumni-weekend



Mr. John Gallagher receiving his National ROTC Hall of Fame medal from Major General Christopher Hughes, Commanding General, U.S. Army Cadet Command

UNI Panther Battalion Semester Kickoff

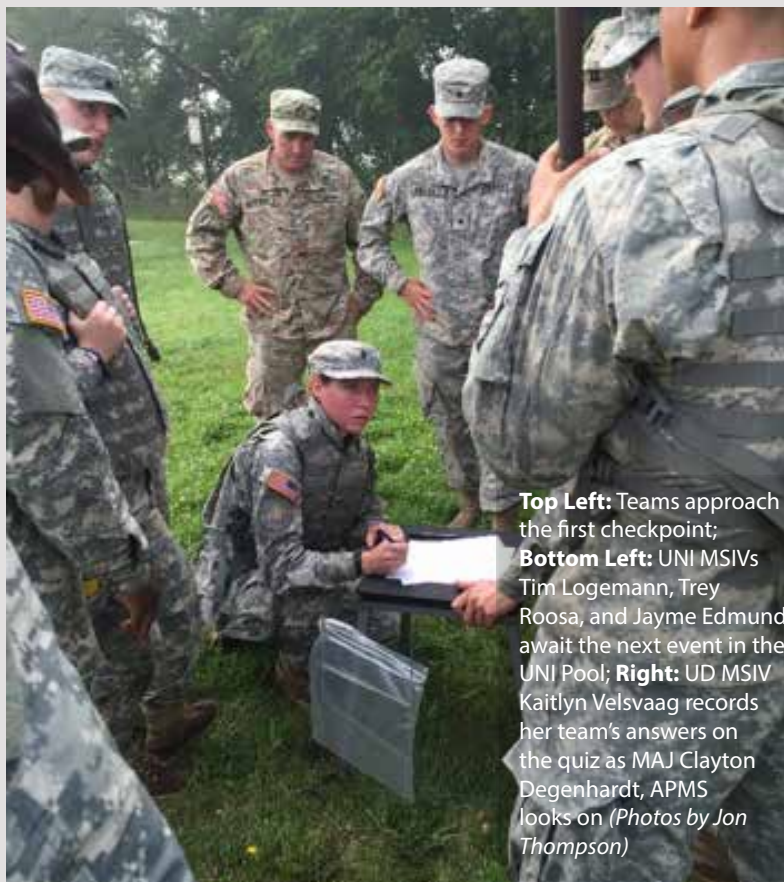
With classes resuming on Monday, August 22nd at the University of Northern Iowa's Panther Battalion kicked off its all fall semester early on August 17th. Expanding upon last year's Zero week concept, the incoming seniors came together to lay the foundation for a successful school year. Known as Zero Week, these days before classes began served two purposes. First, cadets worked together to plan out training for the semester, establish the cadet mentoring and counseling programs, and receive leadership development training from Lt Col Glen Keith, the Professor of Military Science. While much of this training was done in classrooms, the big team building event was the annual senior Crucible.

Cadets came together on a foggy morning at the UNI Campus. The cadets organized into three teams that competed against

each other for the duration of Phase I which took them across campus on a 3.5 mile route. Cadets donned Individual body armor (IBA) vests and then received their mission which required them to carry a variety of heavy and bulky objects on their route. At the one-mile mark, the cadets had to complete a 10-question quiz with time added for every incorrect answer. Once complete with the quiz, the cadets moved back to the start point where they moved all team members and equipment across a field with the caveat that only one person at a time could actually touch the field as they went across. The final step in Phase I was a lap around the UNI athletic facilities. The Crucible then continued with Phase II at the UNI pool. After some various warm-up exercises, the cadets worked together to untie ropes on objects at the bottom of the deep end and bring everything to the surface. With senior

cadets having to work closely over this next school year, this Crucible was away to reinforce this teamwork.

Zero Week also provided an opportunity for ROTC Cadets to support incoming freshman events. Cadets provided a helping hand during move-in day for the freshmen. UNI cadets helped new students get situated into their dorm rooms. Other school sponsored events allowed UNI cadets to share their stories with new students. One event was the Panther Picnic for all incoming freshmen students. Fresh off their Crucible, UNI MSIVs passed out water bottles and talked about ROTC with interested first year students.



Top Left: Teams approach the first checkpoint; **Bottom Left:** UNI MSIVs Tim Logemann, Trey Roosa, and Jayme Edmund await the next event in the UNI Pool; **Right:** UD MSIV Kaitlyn Velsvaag records her team's answers on the quiz as MAJ Clayton Degenhardt, APMS looks on (Photos by Jon Thompson)



UNI MSIV cadets Nicole Dusch and Cody Nolan share their stories with several UNI freshmen students at the Panther Picnic
(Photo by Jon Thompson)



UD cadets help unload a SUV during move-in day
(photo by Cadet Ramon Riley)



UNI cadets Jayme Edmund and Cody Nolan get ready to carry items up the Bender Hall Tower
(photo by LTC Glen Keith)

UNI CADET FIELD TRAINING STORYBOARD

UNI MSIII Cadet Michael Casey Cadet Field Training, U.S. Military Academy, NY

UNI Cadet, Michael Casey, was selected to attend the US Military Academy's (USMA , aka West Point) Cadet Field Training (CFT). CDT Casey described CFT as some of the best and most educational Army training he has received. One of the highlights was the branch week, where representatives from each officer branch provided an orientation on their jobs and responsibilities. He had the opportunity to sit down and pick the brains of so many knowledgeable Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) and officers that gave him important information that he will use when he commission's as an officer from UNI.

Cadet Casey learned the lieutenant's best weapon is his or her radio, he was able to call for fire and see the artillery impact from his call for fire. During Engineer day he learned how to construct concertina wire obstacles, how to use C4 explosive, and set up shaping charges for breaching. Other training included Urban Operations where they kicked in doors and cleared rooms in teams of four; they learned to trust their teammates and what it was like to work as a cohesive unit.

Additionally, the Cadets had three Field Training Exercises, land navigation, and multiple range days for shooting, all of which was spent sleeping outside in the field.

Another highlight of the training was the 10th Mountain Division NCOs that trained Cadets. The Cadets practiced moving as squads and battle drills from NCOs that had multiple deployments and years of experience. Special Forces teams also provided training, which provided a huge morale boost as well.

Cadet Casey and other ROTC Cadets ate lunch with Major General Hughes, the new Commanding General of US Army Cadet Command, and also from Red Oak, Iowa. He talked about future developments in ROTC and what he expects from us as future lieutenants.



Left: Engineer Day, getting ready to blow stuff up; **Right:** UNI Cadet Michael Casey (front row, far left) and his squad

Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) Storyboard

University of Northern Iowa Cadet Jack Rollison

University of Northern Iowa Cadet, Jack Rollison spent part of his summer in Peru with the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) program. This was a unique experience as the U.S. cadets lived with Peruvian cadets in the barracks. This allowed the cadets to experience the day to day life of a Peruvian cadet. The cadets did everything from making their bed in the morning to going to classes to conducting physical training. The U.S. and Peruvian cadets also went to the field and learned the basics of Peruvian Army weapon systems and land navigation.

While the CULP mission is primarily military to military, U.S. cadets still had time to experience the Peruvian culture and the city of Lima. Peruvian cadets accompanied the U.S. cadets and provided information that would not have otherwise been provided by a tour guide. The U.S. cadets had many chances to sample the diverse and flavorful Peruvian cuisine. Often times during meals US cadets had the opportunity to observe and hear many different Peruvian dances and songs.

At the end of the trip, the U.S. cadets gained a deeper understanding of Peruvian culture and built friendships with their Peruvian counter-parts. During the mission the U.S. cadets greatly improved their communication skills by learning to communicate ideas even when a language barrier exists. Learning to operate and coordinate with a foreign military and civilian force is a skill that will stay with the cadets.



Top Left: While shopping in a local market cadets joined local Peruvian children playing with a soccer ball; **Top Right:** Peruvian and U.S. cadets pose for a picture while on a field training exercise in the desert near Lima, Peru; **Bottom Left:** Peruvian cadets give a demonstration on the firing some of their 105mm artillery; **Bottom Middle:** US cadets participated in the firing of Peruvian artillery; **Bottom Right:** US cadets walked to the top of a hill to observe Peruvian cadets train to call for fire. Targets were set up down range so Peruvian cadets could practice adjusting their fire.